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## FORM 6-K

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

JAN 29 2002

**Report of Foreign Issuer**  
**Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of**  
**The Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

U.S. POST OFFICE  
 DELAYED

**Northern Rock plc**

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Northern Rock House  
 Gosforth  
 Newcastle upon Tyne  
 England  
 NE3 4PL

(Address of principal executive offices)

PROCESSED

FEB 11 2002

P  
 THOMSON  
 FINANCIAL

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports  
 under cover form 20-F or Form 40-F

Form 20-F ... ☒ ... Form 40-F .....

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in  
 this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-  
 2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes ..... No ... ☒ ...

## INDEX

**Document  
No.**

**Document**

1. Notification of Acquisition of Shares by Northern Rock Employee Trust

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorised.

Northern Rock plc  
(Registrant)

Date: 21 December 2001

By: 

Name:

C Jobe

Title:

Company Secretary

## NORTHERN ROCK PLC


### Notification of Acquisition of Shares by Northern Rock Employee Trust

Northern Rock plc (the Company) announces the purchase on 19 December 2001 of 250,501 Ordinary 25p Shares in the Company (Shares) by Carey Langlois Trust Company Limited as Trustees of the Northern Rock Employee Trust (a discretionary trust under which all employees of the Northern Rock Group are potential beneficiaries) in order to cover the Ordinary 25p Shares which may be transferred to executive directors and other participants under various executive and other employee share schemes, inter alia, on maturity of awards made under various executive share schemes.

250,000 Shares were purchased at a price of £6.16 per Share and 501 Shares were purchased at a price of £6.1865 per Share.

Following these transactions the Northern Rock Employee Trust holds a total of 3,451,466 Ordinary 25p Shares, representing 0.81% of the Company's issued share capital.

The executive directors are deemed for Companies Act purposes to be interested in all Shares held by the Northern Rock Employee Trust.

 20/12/01

AJA

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